

**Volume 9**

**Number 002**

**Spanish Cultural Diversity - I**

**Lead: After the death of in 1975 Francisco Franco and the coming of democracy, Spain set out to deal with its rich cultural diversity. It was a complex task, centuries overdue.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: From the outside, a casual observer might be forgiven if they did not recognize that modern Spain is a rich tapestry of cultural variety. Spain's geographical proximity to Africa, a scant 20 miles across the Straits of Gibraltar, and its long northern border with France and the rest of Europe, have made it**

**an ethnic land bridge, a magnet for different cultures, religions and peoples since long before the Roman Empire. The Greeks came, Phoenicians and Carthaginians, Visigoths and other Germanic tribes swirled into the void left by a collapsing Rome and then in the eighth century, crusading Arabs and Berbers from Africa brought evangelical Islam at the point of a sword. Then, for over seven centuries, Spain became one of the violent frontiers between Christian Europe and the Islamic culture to the south.**

## Resources

**Bustamante, Enriqu** *The Media, Culture & Society; TV & Public Service in Spain: Difficult Encounter,*

**Carr, Raymond.** *Spain 1808-1975.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.

**Carr, Raymond.** *Modern Spain. 1875-1980.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

**Diaz-Quinoes, Arcadio.** “Salvador Braw: Parador of The Automista Tradition.” *Modern Language Quarterly.* V57 (1996): P237. Keating, Michael. “The Minority Nations of Spain and European Integration - New Framework for Autonomy?” *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* (1) 2000: p29-42.

**Gin, Salvador.** *Social Structure of Catalonia.* Barcelona and London: The Anglo-Catalan Society, 1980

**Graham, Helen and Jo Labanyi.** Eds. [\*Spanish Cultural Studies: An Introduction: The Struggle for Modernity.\*](#) New York: Oxford University Press, 1996)

**Heiberg, Marianne.** *The Making of the Basque Nation.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

**Hooper, John.** *The New Spaniards.* London: Penquin Books, 1995.

**Kinder, Marsha** *Blood Cinema: The Reconstruction of National Identity in Spain A Centennial Book* New York: Centennial, 1993.

**Kinder, Marsha.** [\*Refiguring Spain: Cinema, Media, Representation.\*](#) 1997

**Slowly, fitfully, with much bloodshed, Aragon and Castile, the principal Christian kingdoms of Spain, assaulted the Moorish bastions and by 1492 had gradually brought a rough unity to the peninsula. This unity was painfully fashioned through the suppression and forced conversion of Jews and Muslims, using the Catholic Inquisition as the enforcer of national harmony as much as religious conformity. The problem was these attempts to enforce unity from the center usually functioned as a blanket that only lightly covered over wide differences from one region to the other in language, religion, culture, and politics. For instance, a majority of Catalonia, the region around Barcelona, speak Catalan as their first language, rather than Castilian, which the world rather naively considers, true Spanish. Next time: the constitution of 1978. Research assistance for this series by Shirley Patron and Susan Higgins, at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Copyright by Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.**